



# *Development League Regulations 2019*

*(Updated February 2019)*

# 2018 Development League Information

## OBJECTIVE

The Development League provides competition and development opportunities and pathways for U15 players from club based teams. The Development League underpins the Winter League.

## COMPETITION DATES - May 5 – 26 (Final Series)

## ENTRY FEES

The entry fee will be determined once all entries are received. \$275 as an estimate.

Entry fees can be paid via cheque or direct debit. Please ensure cheques are made payable to **Softball NSW Inc.** or direct debit into Softball NSW Inc. **BSB 082133 Account 029867118** (please ensure Development League and Team Name is in the description).

## DUE DATES

Team Entry	<b>March 18</b>
Deposit (\$110)	<b>March 18</b>
Proposed Team Roster	<b>March 18</b>
Final Team Roster	<b>April 12</b>
Balance of Levy	<b>April 12</b>

## WITHDRAWAL FROM DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

Team contacts will be advised of all teams entering the League by **March 25**. Teams will then have until **April 1** to withdraw their team without penalty.

## POOLS & FINAL SERIES – MALE & FEMALE DIVISIONS

If more than 10 teams are entered into the League, 2 pools will be created and play in a round robin format.

At the completion of the Round Robin the top 3 teams from each pool will play each other in another round robin format.

A finals series will be played to determine the winner of the League.

If less than 10 teams enter, a round robin will be played with a final series to be played at the conclusion of the round robin.



## **SNSW CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please direct all enquiries and correspondence to:  
Operations and Events Manager  
Softball NSW  
PO Box 210, Rooty Hill NSW 2766  
Phone: (02) 9677 4000  
Fax: (02) 96774040  
Email: [genmanager@softball.net.au](mailto:genmanager@softball.net.au)

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# DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE REGULATIONS

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# COMPETITION RULES

## 1. THE COMPETITION

- 1.1 The Softball NSW Development League will be conducted under the auspices of, and governed by, the Rules and Regulations of Softball NSW.
- 1.2 The Development League will be conducted in two (2) divisions – Male and Female.
- 1.3 The Development League will be conducted at approved Venues and the NSW Softball Centre.
- 1.4 Games may be scheduled Midweek, Friday nights, Saturday, Saturday nights and Sunday.
- 1.5 The draw will be made available to all participating teams prior to the start of the competition.

## 2. ADMINISTRATION

- 2.1 The Softball NSW Technical Committee will be responsible for the development of Development League, and to assist in its promotion .
- 2.2 The Softball NSW Office will administer the Development League competition.
- 2.3 SNSW will ensure that a SNSW Representative is in attendance at each game.

## 3. ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1 Every participant in Development League must be a current registered member of a Softball NSW Full Affiliated Association.
- 3.2 Players must be born in one of the following years 2005, 2006 or 2007.
- 3.3 Players must be registered in the 2018 winter season or 2018/19 summer season at the affiliate where their club is affiliated.
- 3.5 Players and Officials must be involved with only *one* team of the Development League competition.
- 3.6 Participants in the Development League are not required to transfer their registered Affiliation.

- 3.7 All participants must be included on a team roster prior to involvement in any Development League game.
- 3.8 Any woman who is pregnant must seek professional medical advice regarding her participation in this competition. A copy of this advice is to be provided to the team Head Coach or Co-Ordinator. Players must notify their team management of the fact that they are pregnant immediately upon becoming aware of such circumstances.

#### **4. TEAM ROSTERS**

- 4.1 Development League teams must register a minimum of twelve (12) players and a minimum of three (3) officials. Coach, Co-Ordinator and Statistician, must be included on each team sheet submitted prior to the commencement of the competition. A maximum of sixteen (16) players can be registered. Players cannot be deregistered and replaced.
- 4.2 All Coaches (including Assistant Coaches) involved with each team in Development League must have at least Level 2 coaching accreditation.
- 4.3 Scorers for each team in the Development League must have at least Level 1 Scoring Accreditation.
- 4.4 Development League teams must nominate 2 umpires who have at least Level 1 Umpire Accreditation and will be assigned to Development League games for the duration of the competition (**this includes Grand Final Series**). The name of the nominated umpire(s) must be submitted with the team entry.
- 4.5 Working With Children Checks (WWCC) are required for all Team Officials.

#### **5. MATCH BALLS**

- 5.1 It is the responsibility of each Development League team to provide Easton Optic 804 Yellow leather match balls (**cor 0.47**) for each game. These balls may be used as long as they are accepted by the Plate Umpire.

#### **6. VENUES**

- 6.1 Games will be played predominately at the NSW Softball Centre with some games being played at other suitable Venues.
- 6.2 A SNSW representative (or Appointee) will be in attendance at the venues to provide assistance with the running of the event.
- 6.3 The SNSW Representative (or Appointee) shall chair the League Tribunal (if required). The League Tribunal shall also consist of the UIC and one (1) other member appointed by the SNSW Representative (or Appointee)

- 6.4 The SNSW Representative (or Appointee) - in consultation with a Venue Representative - will be the sole arbiter on matters pertaining to the conduct of Development League games on their rostered day.

## **7. RESULT SHEETS – LINE UP PADS**

- 7.1 One Line up pad for the season for each team will be supplied by Softball NSW. The line up sheets containing a list of all players and officials must be completed by both teams at least ten (10) minutes prior to the start of the game. One copy is to be given to the plate umpire and one copy to the opposing team. **Please ensure that the team name and date is printed on top of the line up sheet.**
- 7.2 The family and given name of every participant must be legibly printed on the line up sheet. No nicknames or initials are permitted.
- 7.3 At the conclusion of the game the final game score shall be entered on both of the line up sheets and signed by the Plate Umpire. The two line up sheets from each team then needs to be stapled together. The Plate Umpire shall return the line up sheets to the UIC.
- 7.4 The SNSW Representative shall forward all line up sheets to the SNSW Office within five (5) working days of the games. Game scores must be submitted within 24 hours via email to [events@softball.net.au](mailto:events@softball.net.au)
- 7.5 For games held at NSW Softball Centre, the Venue Representative shall leave all line up sheets in the Development League Box for collection by the Softball NSW Events Co-Ordinator.

## **8. UMPIRES**

- 8.1 Development League teams must nominate 2 umpires who will be assigned to Development League games for the duration of the competition.

The name of the nominated umpires must be submitted with the team entry information.

The nominated umpires must commit to doing games as assigned during the competition on behalf of the team.

Should a team's nominated umpires not be available to umpire on any day of the competition it is the responsibility of the team and umpire to organise a replacement of similar or senior standard. The Umpires' Coordinator must be advised of the change, including the contact details of the replacement umpire (name, email address and mobile number) before 3pm on the Wednesday before the day of competition.

**Teams that fail to supply an umpire will be fined \$55 for each allocated game the umpire is not in attendance and deduction of one (1) competition point.**

Umpires 2 per team Level 1 Accredited – Minimum age 15 years

Please Note: Umpires are required to remain at the host venue for the full day **(this includes Grand Final Series)**.

- 8.2 Umpires are required to report at least sixty (60) minutes prior to the first scheduled game time.
- 8.3 Protests will be dealt with on the spot by the Venue UIC.
- 8.4 **Team umpires will be paid \$10 per game** via direct debit by Softball NSW at the conclusion of the League. Umpires are asked to email their bank details to [genmanager@softball.net.au](mailto:genmanager@softball.net.au).
- 9.2 The Affiliate Venue will be responsible for providing a Venue Umpire-in-Chief (UIC). SNSWUA will also appoint a UIC for the duration of the League. Where these regulations refer to responsibilities of the UIC, it will be for the Venue UIC and SNSWUA-appointed UIC to divide those tasks as they see fit.
- (a) Should an Affiliate Venue not have a suitable qualified umpire to act as a UIC, the SNSWUA will identify an appropriate umpire. The SNSWUA-appointed UIC will be responsible for all duties of the UIC for games played at Blacktown International Sportspark.
- (b) Should a UIC have to travel outside the Sydney Metropolitan area, travel and accommodation costs will be paid by the Winter League Committee.
- (c) The Winter League Umpiring Co-ordinator will provide the Venue UIC with the Umpire Allocation Spreadsheets and list of appointed umpires for the round by 5.00 pm on the Thursday prior to the day(s) competition. These sheets are to be completed and returned by 5.00 pm on the Wednesday following the competition round.

## **9. INCLEMENT WEATHER**

- 9.1 If it is necessary to cancel games prior to a weekend, this will be done by the SNSW Events Co-Ordinator by 3.00pm on Friday. All team contacts will be notified of the decision by 7.00 pm on that day.
- 9.2 At Venues, it is the responsibility of the Venue Representative in consultation with the Development League Committee representative to make the final decision regarding the playing of games at their venue prior to 7.30am on the day of competition.
- 9.3 Venue Representatives are responsible for notifying all teams competing at their venue of any cancellations by at least 7.30am on the day of competition.
- 9.4 Where teams are travelling in excess of 100 kilometres to a Venue they are required to inform the Venue Representative on the Thursday prior to the competition games of their scheduled departure time.



- 9.5 Where teams are required to travel in excess of 100 kilometres to a Development League Venue every effort must be made to determine the likelihood of games being played prior to the departure of the travelling teams.
- 9.6 It is the responsibility of the Venue Representative and the UIC to determine whether games will be played at the SNSW Softball Centre on the day of competition. This decision will be made at 7.00am at the Centre. All team contacts will be notified immediately of the decision.
- 9.7 Once a game commences the decision to suspend that game will be the responsibility of the plate umpire who may consult with the UIC.
- 9.8 Any game called off, or any game that does not commence due to inclement weather, will be declared a draw.

## **10. PLAYING RULES – General**

- 10.1 All games shall be played in accordance with the current Softball Australia Rules as adopted by Softball NSW unless otherwise specified hereafter.
- 10.2 All games shall commence at the time specified in the draw unless delayed by the previous game. A minimum of thirty (30) minutes shall be allowed between double-header games.
- 10.3 If any team is not ready to play at the appointed time, this will result in forfeit to the non-offending team.
- 10.4 Any team that does not have the required number of players to begin or continue a game will forfeit to the non-offending team.
- 10.5 Uniforms are the responsibility of the team Co-Ordinator.
- 10.6 The first named team in the draw shall occupy first base bench and shall call the toss. Each team shall be entitled to five (5) minutes warm-up on the diamond prior to the scheduled starting time.
- 10.7 Should the catcher be on base after the defensive team makes the second out, he/she must be replaced by any eligible player who is not in the next four positions, ie bench player.

## **11. PLAYING RULES**

- 11.1 All games EXCEPT THE GRAND FINAL GAME shall be regulation or ninety (90) minute games, whichever occurs first. At "Time" the innings in progress will be played out or an inning is completed when either three outs have been made or seven runs have scored whichever occurs first.

Note i) a new innings will not commence in the last five (5) minutes.

Note ii) with five minutes or less to go, if the team second at bat has scored the 'go ahead run' the game will stop.

- 11.2 If, at the conclusion of a regulation game, the score is equal and the game time has not exceeded 90 minutes, the tie-breaker will commence at the beginning of the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) inning. If a result has not been decided by the bottom of the ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) inning or at the conclusion of 90 minutes, (whichever occurs first) the game will be declared a draw.
- 11.4 At least ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time the toss shall be taken by the team Co-Ordinators/representatives.
- (a) The team batting first in the game has the first use of the diamond and its time shall expire seven (7) minutes prior to start time.
- (b) The second team warming up, time shall expire two (2) minutes prior to the start time.
- (c) The Home Plate Meeting shall occur two (2) minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- 11.5 **Metal cleats are not permitted in the Development League.**

## 12. UNIFORMS

- 12.1 No Softball NSW Uniforms are to be worn eg undershirts and helmets.
- 12.2 Batting helmets must all be the same colour ie if one white all white. No tape or bandage over logos. No NSW or Australian paraphernalia. **Please Note: The player will not be allowed to take the field if these rules are not adhered to.**
- 12.3 All socks and belts must be of the one team colour, this also includes undershirts if worn.
- 12.4 Official's uniform must be team colours. **Jeans and Lycra Active Wear, in any form, are not allowed to be worn by officials. Enclosed shoes must be worn by all team officials.**
- 12.5 SNSW has the ability to impose a fine or loss of points for any breaches of incorrect uniform.
- 12.6 **Jewellery**
- Distracting Adornments – no exposed items, including jewellery, judged by the umpire to be distracting to opposing players may be worn or displayed. The umpire shall require the item to be removed or covered. Medical alert bracelets and/or necklaces, if deemed distracting shall be required to be taped to the body in such a manner that the medical alert information remains visible. **Please Note: The player will not be allowed to take the field if this rule is not adhered to.**

## 13. EJECTION OF PLAYERS/OFFICIALS

- 13.1 Should any player/official be ejected from a game for any form of misconduct the umpire concerned shall submit a written report to the UIC immediately at the conclusion of the game in question.
- 13.2 Every player/official ejected from a game for any form of misconduct shall appear before a tribunal.
- 13.3 The UIC shall advise the Venue Representative of the need to call a Tribunal Hearing.
- 13.4 The Venue Representative shall advise the player/official **and** the umpire who ejected the participant of the time and place of the Tribunal Hearing which shall be conducted as close as possible to the end of the game in question.
- 13.5 The player/official who was ejected shall not be eligible to participate further in any Development League game until they have appeared before a Development League Tribunal.
- 13.6 The League Tribunal shall hear the umpire's account of the incident responsible for the participant's ejection and then the response from the player/official who was ejected or their nominated Advocate. Should the player/official or the umpire be under eighteen (18) years of age he/she must be accompanied by an adult.
- 13.7 The League Tribunal shall have the authority to impose one of the following:
- a) no further penalty, **OR**
  - b) reprimand the player/official, **OR**
  - c) suspend the player/official for any or all of the remaining games in the League season.
- 13.8 At the conclusion of any League Tribunal, the Venue Representative shall record the result on the Ejection Form and leave it in the Development League Box for collection by the NSW Operations and Events Manager. If this occurs at a Venue the Ejection Form shall be forwarded by the Venue Representative to NSW on the Monday immediately following the fixture.
- 13.9 The venue representative shall notify the NSW Operations and Events Manager of any suspensions prior to the next fixture.
- 13.10 The NSW Operations and Events Manager will notify all venue representatives of any suspensions prior to the next fixture.

## **14. DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE POINTS**

- 14.1 Points for round games will be allocated as follows:

3	Win
2	Draw
2	Inclement Weather/Cancellations
1	Loss
0	Forfeit

## 15. DETERMINING TIED POSITIONS - FINAL PLACINGS

- 15.1 If two or more teams are tied on points, the team with the least runs against for the entire round robin shall take the higher ladder position.
- 15.2 If two teams are tied on points, the higher ladder position will be determined by the following:
1. runs against
  2. the team that won the first head to head game in the round robin
  3. should the head to head game be tied the teams shall play off to determine who takes the higher position.
- 15.3 If three teams are tied on points and runs against, the head-to-head results played between those three teams shall be considered. If one team has won more matches against the other two teams it is tied with, this team shall take the higher ladder position. The next two ladder positions would be decided as per 16.2
- 15.4 In the case that three or more teams are tied on points and runs against and the teams can't be separated by the head-to-head results in the round robin, the positions will be determined by the number of runs against in the head-to-head games between all teams which finished equal on points.
- 15.5 If these teams are still tied (three or more teams tied on points, runs against, can't be separated by head-to-head result and are tied on points and runs against) then the teams that are tied shall play off, in a series of games determined by SNSW, to determine final placings.

## 16. FORFEITS & PENALTIES

- 16.1 Payment of all fines imposed must be received at the Softball NSW office by 5.00pm on the Thursday following the game in question. Failure of a team to pay said fines by the time specified will result in the loss of all future game points until the payment is received. (Note: the lost points are NOT reinstated on payment of fine.)
- 16.2 Appeals must be submitted in writing no later than 3 days after the event/game. Any appeal received after 3 days will not be considered by the Committee.

**Please Note: If a letter is submitted to the Technical Committee asking to review the fine/penalty imposed, all fines must be paid by the specified deadline and if the fine/penalty is overturned a refund will be provided to the team in question.**

- 16.3 A general fine of fifty dollars (\$50) and the loss of three (3) points will be imposed on any team that forfeits any Development League game. Specific fines may be imposed for forfeits as a result of breaches of rules and regulations. Please Note: This rule does not include a technical forfeit ie a player was injured and no substitute was available.

- 16.4 The participation of an unregistered/ineligible Development League player/official will result in the forfeit of the game in which the unregistered/ineligible player/official participated and loss of 6 points.
- 16.5 If an ejected player/official takes part in any game prior to appearing before a League Tribunal, this will automatically result in the forfeiture of all games in which the ejected player/official has participated. A loss of six (6) competition points for each game in which the ejected player/official participated will be imposed.
- 16.6 Should a player/official who has been suspended by a League Tribunal take part in any game this will automatically result in the forfeiture of all games in which the suspended player/official has participated. A loss of six (6) competition points for each game in which the suspended player/official participated will be imposed.
- 16.8 A maximum of sixteen (16) players may be on the result card and participate in any one game. Should this number be exceeded the team at fault will forfeit to the non-offending team and incur a fifty five dollar (\$55) fine and a loss of three (3) competition points.
- 16.9 **Withdrawal from the Development League Competition:** Should a team withdraw from the Development League prior to the commencement of the competition all monies submitted in relation to the Development League will be forfeited.

Prior to the commencement of the competition, any team failing to pay monies relating to the Development League by the due date will automatically have their team withdrawn from the competition AND forfeit all monies paid to date.

Should a Team withdraw from the Development League after the competition has commenced this will result in:

- nullification of all matches played and cancellation of all points awarded to opponents.
- forfeiture of all monies submitted; and

## **17. DANGEROUS CONDITIONS**

- 17.1 The Plate Umpire shall suspend a game if the conditions are dangerous or unplayable. It is the responsibility of the Plate Umpire and does not require the UIC's consent.
- 17.2 The UIC and/or Venue UIC/Venue Representative may direct the Plate Umpire to suspend a game.
- 17.3 Once the Plate Umpire has suspended a game, the UIC and/or Venue UIC/Venue Representative may:
- resume that game if the conditions warrant or
  - abandon that game if the conditions remain dangerous or unplayable.

- 17.4 When any round game in progress is called off it shall be considered a regulation game provided 50% of allotted time has elapsed OR a minimum of three (3) innings has been played. Any game called off before such time shall be declared a draw.
- 17.5 Any game called off, that does not satisfy Rule 18.4, or any game that did not commence due to inclement weather, will be declared a draw.

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## **18. FINAL SERIES ELIGIBILITY**

- 18.1 Players must participate in at least **50%** of games (this includes any washed out games) to qualify for the final series. The percentage of games played will be 'rounded up'.

## **19. FINAL SERIES**

- 19.1 **The first team into the GRAND FINAL will have the choice of 'home or away'. If a team takes the option of 'batting first' they will be in the 1<sup>st</sup> base dugout.**

- 19.2 In the event that competition rounds are not completed, for the purpose of conducting a finals series and the awarding of prizes the criteria (number of matches played) will be:

**That 50% of teams have played 50% of their scheduled games**

- 19.3 All competitions will have a finals series.

If pools have been played it will be the top 2 teams from each pool.

If there are no pools the playoffs format will be determined dependant on the number of teams entered.

- 19.4 All final series games, EXCLUDING THE GRAND FINAL GAME, shall be regulation or ninety (90) minute games, whichever occurs first. At "Time" the innings in progress shall be completed to a result.

- 19.5 During a final series game if the final game score is a draw, this game will continue until a result is obtained with the Tie Breaker commencing at the beginning of the next inning.

## **20. FINALS SERIES - UNABLE TO BE PLAYED**

- 20.1 In the event that games in the Finals Series may be unplayable the following will apply:

### **Unplayable Semi Final(s)**

Team 1 through to Grand Final.  
Teams 2 and 3 to play Preliminary Final  
Team 4 drops out

### **Unplayable Preliminary Final**

Highest ranked team through to Grand Final

## **Unplayable Grand Final**

JOINT WINNERS will be declared.

**If the FINAL SERIES IS ABANDONED before any game is played, the winner shall be the winner of the preliminary rounds.**

20.2 In the event the games in the Final Series may be unplayable and pools have been played the following will apply:

The top 2 placed teams will play the final series in the following format:

1<sup>st</sup> Pool A v 1<sup>st</sup> Pool B  
2<sup>nd</sup> Pool A v 2<sup>nd</sup> Pool B

20.3 If any of the final series games, EXCLUDING THE GRAND FINAL GAME, are called off due to inclement weather and:

(a) five (5) or more innings have been completed or the team second at bat has scored more runs than the other team in five (5) or more innings, the winner shall be the winner of this regulation game.

**OR**

(b) fifty percent (50%) of the time has elapsed, the winner shall be the team that has scored more runs in even innings, or if the team second at bat has scored more runs than the other team, the winner shall be the winner of this regulation game.

20.4 Should neither of the above clauses [20.3 (a), 20.3 (b)] be satisfied, the result will be determined according to ranking.

20.5 The Grand Final Game will be a regulation game. Should the score be equal at the end of seven (7) innings, the Tie Breaker will commence at the beginning of the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) inning.

20.6 In the event of the GRAND FINAL GAME not being completed and,

(a) five (5) or more innings have been completed or the team second at bat has scored more runs than the other team, the winner shall be the winner of this regulation game.

**OR**

(b) If LESS THAN five (5) innings have been completed OR the score is tied at the end of five (5) or more completed innings JOINT WINNERS will be declared and first and second prize money WILL BE SHARED EQUALLY.

## **21. GENERAL**

21.1 All correspondence pertaining to the Development League should be forwarded to:



**Softball NSW Inc.**

Attention: Development League

PO Box 210

ROOTY HILL NSW 2766

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30 am - 4.30 pm

Phone: 9677 4000

Fax: 9677 4040

**Email:** [genmanager@softball.net.au](mailto:genmanager@softball.net.au)

- 21.2 All cheques pertaining to Development League should be made payable to Softball NSW Inc. or payment by direct debit to the Softball NSW Inc. nominated account.
- 21.3 All accounts must be settled through the SNSW Office. No monies will be accepted at Venues.

**22. DISCLAIMER**

Notwithstanding the above rules and regulations, the Softball NSW Development League Committee retains the right to rule on any matter not specifically covered by the these rules and to take action on decisions pertaining to the League subject to the right of appeal to the SNSW Board of Management.

**23. SNSW POLICIES AND CODES OF CONDUCT**

Softball NSW has numerous Policies in particular, the SNSW Member Protection Policy and Codes of Conduct that all Winter League participants must adhere to.

All SNSW Policies and Codes of Conduct are available on the SNSW Website or from the SNSW Office.